

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01

EUR-25 RSR-01 /101 W

----- 035798

R 250846 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7990

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O. 11652: N/ A, DECON 1/1/74

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATES FLEXIBLE STAND AT UN

1. REPLYING TO QUESTIONS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MAY 25, FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG- SHIK SAID ROKG IS STUDYING THE ATTITUDES OF OTHER COUNTRIES TOWARD A DEBATE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION IN UNGA AND THAT ROKG IS WILLING TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN PLACING KOREAN QUESTION ON THE AGENDA IF A MAJORITY SO WISHES. HE SAID THE ONLY REASON ROK HAD FAVORED POSTPONEMENT WAS TO HELP REDUCE TENSIONS AND PROMOTE PEACEFUL UNIFICATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, A DEBATE ON KOREAN QUESTION WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO NATIONS OF THE WORLD THE ORIGIN OF DIVISION OF KOREA.

2. DURING EARLIER INTERPELLATION MAY 24, REVITALIZATION GROUP NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN KU POM- MO PRESSED FOREIGN MINISTER AS TO WHETHER ROKG INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE RIGID FOREIGN POLICY OR IF IT WOULD LAUNCH A " NORTHWARD POLICY" (KOREAN WORD SIMILAR TO " OSTPOLITIK") TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND COMMUNIST

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CHINA, WHILE STRENGTHENING TIES WITH U. S. KU SAID THERE WAS CONTRADICTION BETWEEN VIRTUALLY RECOGNIZING NORTH KOREA BY NEGOTIATING WITH IT AND REFUSING LEGAL RECOGNITION. (KU WAS AN ADVISOR TO ROK DELEGATION TO SOUTH- NORTH RED CROSS TALKS UNTIL LAST MARCH.) FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT ROK WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE FLEXIBLE AND REALISTIC PLIICIES.

3. IN COURSE OF INTERPELLATIONS, FOREIGN MINISTER MADE TWO ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS OF INTEREST:

A. HE SAID BARRIER TO PROGRESS IN SOUTH- NORTH DIALOGUE WAS NORTH' S INSISTENCE ON WITHDRAWAL OF U. S. TROOPS. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO ROK " AND OUR FRIENDS IN WASHINGTON HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THEY HAVE NO PRESENT INTENTION TO WITHDRAW."

B. MOST MEMBER NATIONS IN ASPAC AGREE THAT A NEW BODY IS NEEDED TO REPLACE ASPAC. ROK IS KEENLY INTER-ESTED IN HAVING SOME KIND OF ORGANIZATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION. AS FOR THE SHAPE OF THIS NEW ORGANIZATION, EACH COUNTRY IS STILL CONSIDERING THE QUESTION.
HABIB

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SEOUL03351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730553/aaaajscb.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980304
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATES FLEXIBLE STAND AT UN
TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS
To: CINCPAC
EA
SECSTATE WASHDC
TOKYO
USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

